



MICHIGAN HEALTH CARE SAFETY ASSOCIATION

"Advocating for Safety in Healthcare"

Senate Health Policy Committee
Attn: Honorable Tom George M.D.
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

November 12, 2009

Dear Senator George

The Michigan Health Care Safety Association is a group of safety professionals working to provide the safest possible environment for patients and employees in Michigan's hospitals and other healthcare venues. Our active membership includes safety professionals from more than 30 hospitals across the state.

MHCSA has been closely following the Medical Waste Act revisions and HB 4459. The bill was developed with member input as part of the stakeholder group that has worked on updating the Medical Waste Act on behalf of our industry. HB 4459 meets the needs of our members and their organizations and has been strongly endorsed by the DEQ and the original stakeholder group. We are asking that the Senate Health Policy Committee take up HB 4459 for consideration when an opening in the agenda becomes available.

We are also aware that HB 4458 is up for consideration by your committee. This bill is tied to HB4459 and places regulatory requirements on trauma scene cleanup. This bill is not in the best interest of the health care industry as it creates a special subcategory of medical waste that is unnecessary and clearly driven by a single special interest. The Michigan Health Care Safety Association strongly opposes HB4458. Our members share the opinion of the Michigan DEQ as expressed in their analysis of HB4458.

As a physician we are certain that you recognize the essential nature of patient and worker safety and safety from the potential hazards of improperly handled medical waste. HB4459 clearly addresses that concern in a consistent manner across all affected industries. Do not allow a single special interest to counter extensive efforts of the stakeholder group.

On behalf of the Michigan Health Care Safety Association we strongly request that you and your committee remove the tie bar between the bills and act quickly to pass HB4459.

Russell S. Kolski RN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell S. Kolski', written over a light blue horizontal line.

President

www.MHCSA.org

To promote and maintain "safety" as a primary function in the delivery of quality health care services.